



## Alien Challenge

**Grades:** 3-5 and 6-8

**Science Standards:** Content Standard A: Science as Inquiry; Content Standard D: Earth and Space Science; Content Standard E: Science and Technology; Content Standard G: History and Nature of Science  
Other Standards Addressed: English; Writing, Language, Media and Technology

### Premise:

An alien life form from the planet Plastico in the Polymeric Galaxy has been beamed to planet Earth. Unfortunately, the organism was unable to withstand the planet's environment and died shortly after arriving. Prior to its death, the alien life form laid several pellet-like eggs, which have hatched into their larval stage, and in this stage, can adapt to a wide variety of environments and stimuli, unlike the adult of the species.

### Challenge One:

You are to choose one of the Earth's biomes or habitats, describe it (location, plants, animals, climate), and then name 5-10 most important adaptations your alien larva will need to make in order to survive. You are to explain each adaptation and why you chose it. Keep in mind the environment--both land and climate, means of obtaining food, protection, locomotion, reproduction, and size.

### Challenge Two:

Illustrate your creature in its habitat showing as many of its adaptations as possible.

### Challenge Three:

Build a model of your alien creature using only natural or manufactured polymer materials. Be sure that it matches the description and illustration in challenges one and two.

### Materials:

Students will need pencil and paper for the writing challenge, crayons, colored pencils, or markers for illustrations, and recyclable plastics like bottles or containers, or any usable plastic material for the alien model.

### Safety:

Teachers may wish to do the cutting of plastic if it involves knives with sharp blades. Gluing with hot glue guns should be monitored by the teacher. Safety rules should be reviewed and observed for this project.